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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Military Hospital in Sofia; Military Units; Standard of Living and Economic Conditions	DATE DISTR.	12 March 1956
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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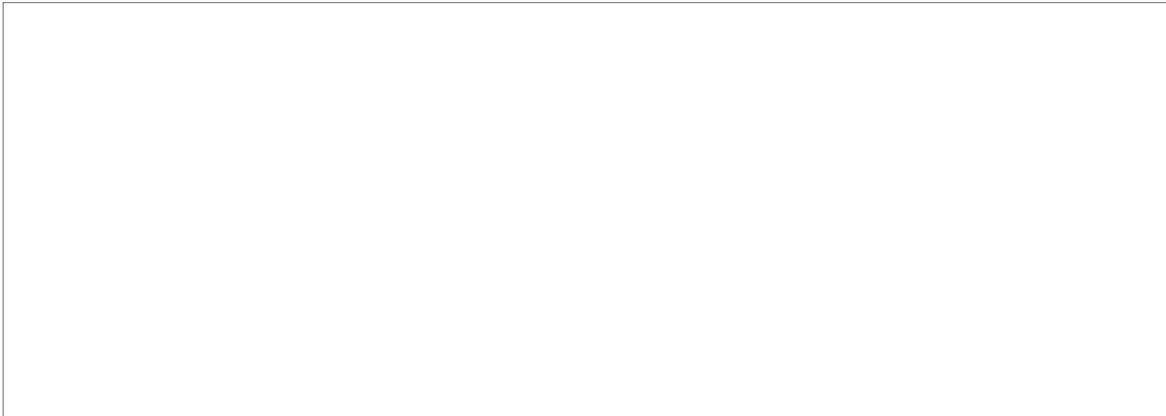
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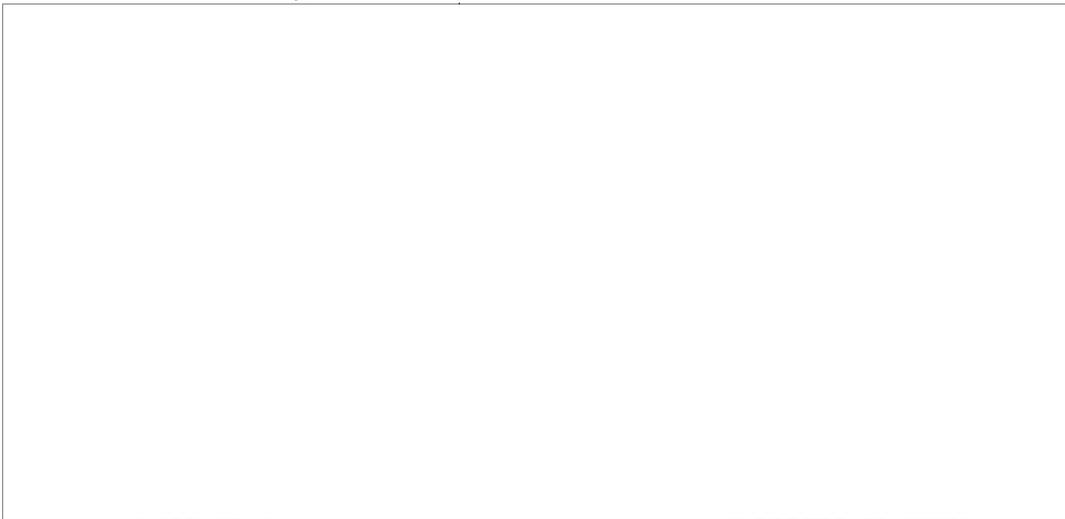
COUNTRY: Bulgaria

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I. Military

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All 41 doctors at the MVR hospital in Sofia, including four dentists and the hospital chief, held [redacted] reserve status. The chief, a lieutenant colonel, was the highest ranking officer at the hospital; its entire male medical staff was composed of army reservists. 25X1

- 1. (a) This hospital was known as "Voenna Bolnitsa MVR" (Military Hospital MVR); source knew of no numerical designation for it.
- (b) This hospital was subordinate to the Medical Department of the MVR.

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- (c) The hospital's personnel consisted of its chief, 35 doctors, four dentists, 30 to 35 nurses (with no military status), five or six administrative personnel (with no military status), and an unknown number of custodial personnel (with no military status). The hospital had 80 to 90 beds.
- (d) This hospital was located in Sofia at 16 Stalingrad ulitsa.
- (e) No continuing military training was received by the staff.
- (f) See (d) above.
- (g) [redacted] 25X1
- (h) Lt. Col. IVANOV, whose first name was possibly Ivan, was the chief of the hospital.
- (i) The hospital had only medical equipment.
- (j) Only on one day in December 1954 did the entire hospital staff participate in an exercise to test the staff's ability to treat and evacuate patients under emergency conditions; this exercise was held on the hospital's premises.

2.

[redacted] military units: 25X1

- (a) In the former American College in Simeonovo, a district of Sofia, there were the following:
1. a language school
 2. an officers' political school
 3. an officer-candidate school
- (b) A border guard officer-candidate school was possibly located in Simeonovo or in Durvenitsa, also a district of Sofia.
- (c) Two military units of unknown size were believed to be located near Sofia's central prison. One of these units was possibly an internal security troop unit.
- (d) A hospital with a staff composition and subordination similar to that [redacted] in Sofia was located in Plovdiv. 25X1
- (e) Unidentified border guard units were possibly located in Belogradchik (N 43-38, E 22-40), Dragoman (N 42-56, E 22-56), Kyustendil (N 42-17, E 22-41), Petrich (N 41-24, E 23-13), Ardino (N 41-35, E 25-06), Svilengrad (N 41-46, E 26-12), Burgas, Stalin (formerly Varna), Ruse, Elkhovo (N 42-10, E 26-33).

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3. Not applicable.

4. [redacted] 25X1

the strength of the Bulgarian Army was to be reduced by 18,000 men. He knew of six regular Army officers, most of whom were doctors, who were released from active duty in November 1955. 25X1

5. [redacted] two groups of draftees [redacted] received pre-induction X-ray examinations at his hospital during 1955; [redacted] other similar groups, of unknown numbers, had also been X-rayed there. 25X1

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II. Civilian

1. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] In 1955, CP members in Sofia and in other cities were ordered to go to villages as managers of agricultural cooperatives to improve the administration and the ideological leadership on the kolkhozy. Up to 1954, the kolkhozy had few strong young men working on them because so many had gone to work in the mines and in factories where they received more pay. Therefore, in 1954, certain restrictions were placed on the male members of the kolkhozy to keep them from leaving the farms. [redacted] there has been no special registration of civilians with certain technical skills. 25X1

2. [redacted] no recent sudden increases in the numbers of persons arrested by the security police. [redacted] there are no restrictions of any kind on travel within Bulgaria except for travel to border zones, which extend to a depth of 15 to 30 kms. along the borders of Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia. Persons who want to travel to the border zones must have an "otkrit list" from the militia at their place of residence, but because there is no border zone on the Rumanian border, no otkrit list was needed. In the interior, there have been no curfews or document checks in the last four or five years. 25X1

3. There has been no shortage of essential goods nor any change in the availability of foods, drugs, clothing, household implements, or luxury goods in the stores; shop windows were filled with these goods because the population could not afford to buy them. All of these goods are now as plentiful as they were six months ago. The rationing of goods has been discontinued and wages and the prices of all commodities have not changed recently. In the last three or four years, there have been two price reductions of consumer goods; but, each time, a State Loan subscription was announced which erased any benefits the population would have had from the reductions. Drugs, including penicillin, are available with the exception of the so-called "deficit medicaments", i.e., imported drugs such as streptomycin, aureomycin, theromycin, as well as anti-histamines which may be bought or imported only with special permission from three physicians. When a package containing

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any one of these drugs is sent to Bulgaria, it is held by the post office until the addressee presents the signed paper from the three physicians; this paper must be submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Health first. In 1954, a Bulgarian penicillin factory was completed in the city of Razgrad, in Ruse Okoliya, [redacted] this factory was also trying to produce aureomycin. Thus, the use of deficit medicaments is permitted only in serious cases of illness.

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4. Because of the shortage of living quarters, many apartments were being constructed in 1955; in the center of Sofia, the new Ministry of Electrification and a representative hotel (representativen hotel) were under construction but the construction of the planned Home of Councils (dom na suvetite) has not yet begun. [redacted] an underground hospital had been constructed in the Banishora District of Sofia before December 1955; he saw this hospital while it was under construction and believes that it was actually to be used as an underground shelter. This structure was located between the Lion Bridge and the central prison [redacted] the Forestry Faculty of the university was to move to the village of Durvenitsa, a district in Sofia, where it would occupy a part of the large new military barracks which were constructed there recently; the remaining part of these barracks will be retained by the military forces.
5. [redacted] no [redacted] censorship of domestic mail, [redacted] all foreign mail was censored; [redacted] letters from abroad which were censored and marked as such. [redacted] postal authorities opened all letters received from the US and Canada during 1954, removed any dollars which were enclosed, and paid the addressees the equivalent in leva at the official rate.
6. [redacted] the "hospital" in the Banishora District of Sofia (see para. 4 above) was actually an air raid shelter. [redacted] no air raid alerts or of any instruction being given to civilians regarding evacuation plans in the event of an attack. [redacted] the Voluntary Organization for Defense Assistance (DOSO) arranged with the military for lectures to be given to civilians on anti-aircraft defense. In 1954, because there was danger that cholera from Egypt would infect the population, all employees of the Ministry of the Interior as well as all military personnel were inoculated against the disease. In general, Army personnel were required to have inoculations against typhoid fever, while children were required to have smallpox vaccinations. There was much propaganda about tuberculosis inoculations, but they were not required.
7. [redacted]
8. [redacted] up to late January 1956 there were no restrictions on daily weather broadcasts given by the Government's meteorological stations.
9. [redacted] there was no forced movement of civilians in or around Sofia.

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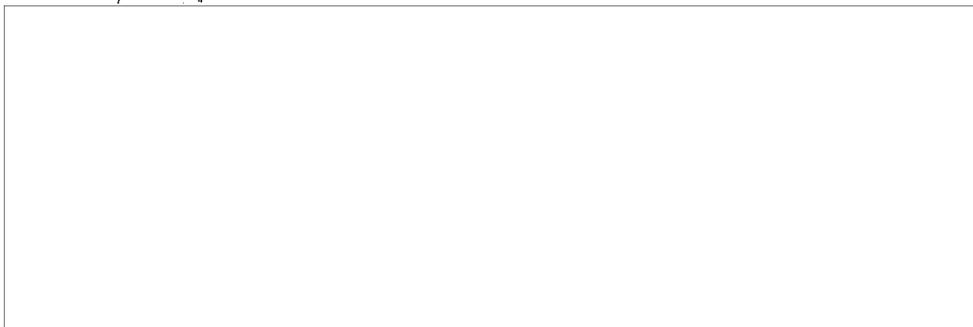
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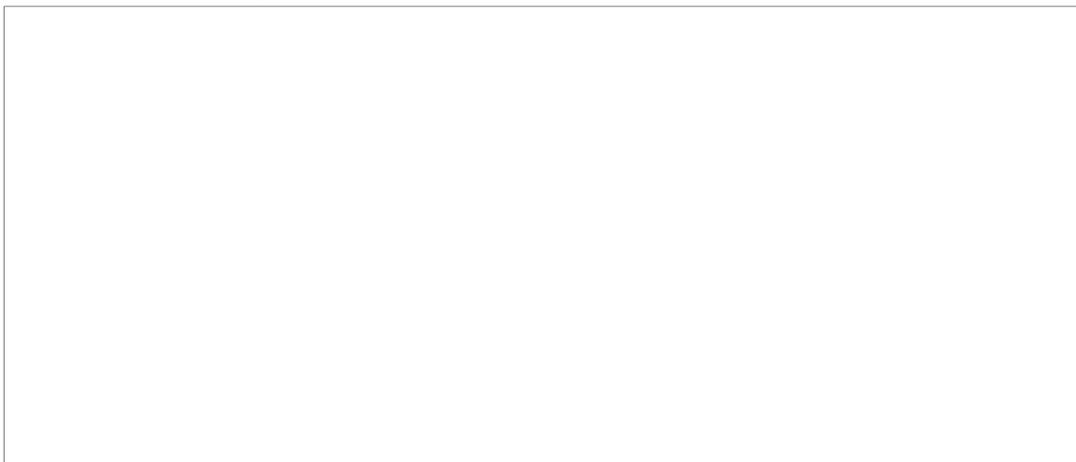


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propaganda. there has been no marked change in 25X1



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